



School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications

Term 1, 2021 Course Outline

GSOE9758 – Network Systems Architecture

Course Staff

Course Convener: Prof. Vijay Sivaraman, Room EET-443, vijay@unsw.edu.au

Consultations: You are encouraged to ask questions on the course material during the lecture in the first instance, rather than via email. Lecturer consultation times will be advised during lectures. ALL email enquiries should be made from your student email address with “GSOE9758” in the subject line, otherwise they may not be answered.

Keeping Informed: Announcements may be made during classes, via email (to your student email address) and/or via online learning and teaching platforms – in this course, we will be using the course webpage <http://subjects.ee.unsw.edu.au/gsoe9758/>. Please note that you will be deemed to have received this information, so you should take careful note of all announcements.

Course Summary

Contact Hours

The course consists of 3 hours of lecture each week.

Activity	Day	Time	Location
Lecture	Wednesday	6pm - 9pm	Online (Zoom)

Context and Aims

This course aims to develop an understanding of the process of architecting network systems, at scales ranging from national (e.g. NBN), to enterprise (e.g. campus) and embedded (e.g. in-vehicle) networks. We will try to bridge the gap between business needs and technology solutions, by learning how to: (a) identify and represent high-level goals and requirements, (b) develop broad architectures that best satisfy needs within given constraints, and (c) create design plans ready for implementation. Case-studies will include the Australian National Broadband Network (NBN) and a University campus network. Guest lecturers from Cisco Systems and group projects with practical architecture development will enhance student learning.

Indicative Lecture Schedule

Period	Summary of Lecture Program
Week 1	Introduction and Architecture Process
Week 2	Business Model Canvas (BMC)
Week 3	National Broadband Network (NBN)

Week 4	Nextgen Telco Architecture; Project discussion
Week 5	Campus Network (Guest lecture); Mid-term test
Week 6	Project stage 1 presentation
Week 7	IoT Networks (Guest lecture) and project discussion
Week 8	Network Programmability (Guest lecture) and project discussion
Week 9	Project stage 2 presentation
Week 10	Starting a Tech Business (Guest Lecture) and review

Assessment

Class presentation	10%
Mid-session test (1 hour)	10%
Final Exam (2 hours)	30%
Project	50%

COVID19 - Important Health Related Notice *<must include this section>*

Your health and the health of those in your class is critically important. You must stay at home if you are sick or have been advised to self-isolate by [NSW health](#) or government authorities. Current alerts and a list of hotspots can be found [here](#). **You will not be penalised for missing a face-to-face activity due to illness or a requirement to self-isolate.** We will work with you to ensure continuity of learning during your isolation and have plans in place for you to catch up on any content or learning activities you may miss. Where this might not be possible, an application for fee remission may be discussed.

If you are required to self-isolate and/or need emotional or financial support, please contact the [Nucleus: Student Hub](#). If you are unable to complete an assessment, or attend a class with an attendance or participation requirement, please let your teacher know and apply for [special consideration](#) through the [Special Consideration portal](#). To advise the University of a positive COVID-19 test result or if you suspect you have COVID-19 and are being tested, please fill in this [form](#).

UNSW requires all staff and students to follow NSW Health advice. Any failure to act in accordance with that advice may amount to a breach of the Student Code of Conduct. Please refer to the [Safe Return to Campus](#) guide for students for more information on safe practices.

Course Details

Credits

This is a 6 UoC course and the expected workload is 15 hours per week throughout the 10-week semester. It includes lectures and a project. You will be expected to work on the project outside of designated contact hours.

Relationship to Other Courses

This is a postgraduate elective course in the School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications. It may also be taken by undergraduate students of advanced standing.

Pre-requisites and Assumed Knowledge

This course assumes knowledge of the fundamentals of data networking covered in TELE3118 "Network Technologies", including the functions of the various layers in the

TCP/IP protocol stack. Some prior knowledge of network performance, network security, and network management, covered respectively in courses TELE4642 “Network Performance”, TELE3119 “Trusted Networks”, and TELE9752 “Network operations and Control” respectively, will be useful, though is not essential for this course.

Following Courses

The course is not a pre-requisite for other courses in the school or faculty.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Describe the process of architecting a networking system
2. Collect and categorise the requirements of the system
3. Evaluate architectural components that best meet the requirements
4. Analyse the interaction of the components and their trade-offs
5. Develop broad design of network systems for specific deployment scenarios

This course is designed to provide the above learning outcomes which arise from targeted graduate capabilities listed in **Appendix A**. The targeted graduate capabilities broadly support the UNSW and Faculty of Engineering graduate capabilities (listed in **Appendix B**). This course also addresses the Engineers Australia (National Accreditation Body) Stage I competency standard as outlined in **Appendix C**.

Syllabus

This course aims to develop an understanding of the process of architecting network systems, at scales ranging from national (e.g. NBN), to enterprise (e.g. campus) and embedded (e.g. in-vehicle) networks. We will try to bridge the gap between business needs and technology solutions, by learning how to: (a) identify and represent high-level goals and requirements, (b) develop broad architectures that best satisfy needs within given constraints, and (c) create design plans ready for implementation. Case-studies will include the Australian National Broadband Network (NBN) and a University campus network. Guest lecturers from industry and group projects with practical architecture development will enhance student learning.

Teaching Strategies

Delivery Mode

- Lectures – to convey the process of architecture, and the steps in the context of specific case-studies.
- Project – the project will be discussed within a group as well as with the instructor(s), and will be presented to the whole class and documented in the form of a final report. The project will provide you with the opportunity to demonstrate your ability to apply the concept of this course to a real-world situation.
- Mid-session test – will provide feedback on your understanding of the material.
- Final examination – final test of competency.

Learning in this course

You are expected to attend all lectures in order to maximise learning. In addition to the lecture notes, you should read relevant sections of the recommended text. Reading additional texts will further enhance your learning experience. Group learning is also encouraged. UNSW *assumes* that self-directed study of this kind is undertaken in addition to attending face-to-face classes throughout the course.

Assessment

- Class presentation [10%]: Each group will be assigned a specific week for which they have to develop a presentation addressing some of the key questions raised in class, and/or related to business/technology developments in the news. Each group will then present their findings and thoughts in a short in-class presentation. Students will also be marked on their class participation throughout the course.
- Mid-session test [10%]: This course will have an in-lecture written test of one hour that will evaluate and provide feedback on your understanding of the material in this course. The test will be held in class in week 5. Re-tests will not be granted in the event that a student misses the test, unless satisfactory written evidence is presented of adverse conditions that prevented the student from taking the test. In such a case, the course coordinator may, at his discretion, conduct the re-test orally with the individual student, typically within two weeks of the original test date.
- Final exam [30%]: This two-hour final exam scheduled by the University will test your overall competency in the course.
- Project [50%]: A project will require you to architect a real-world networking system from requirements analysis to final design. You will have to present the first stage of your project on requirements and business model in-class in week 6, followed by a second stage presentation in week 9 on the architecture and evaluation. Each presentation is worth 15% of the grade, and a final report (worth 20% of the grade) will be due at the end of week 10 that will contain a comprehensive description of the business model, architecture, and evaluation of your system. Late submissions will generally not be accepted.

Course Resources

Textbooks

- The recommended (though not required) reference books for this course are: (a) Priscilla Oppenheimer, "Top-Down Network Design", Third Edition, Cisco Press, 2010, and (b) James D. McCabe, "Network Analysis, Architecture, and Design", 3rd Edition, Morgan-Kaufman, 2007.
- Sections from various other books, papers, and other reading material will be used throughout this course; information about these will be posted on the course web-page: <https://subjects.ee.unsw.edu.au/gsoe9758/>
- Students seeking resources can also obtain assistance from the UNSW Library; please see info.library.unsw.edu.au/web/services/services.html

Other Matters

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of other people's work, including the copying of assignment works and laboratory results from other students. Plagiarism is considered a form of academic misconduct, and the University has very strict rules that include some severe penalties. For UNSW policies, penalties and information to help you avoid plagiarism, see <http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>. To find out if you understand plagiarism correctly, try this short quiz: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism-quiz>.

Student Responsibilities and Conduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to all UNSW policies (see <https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html>), and particular attention is drawn to the following:

Workload

It is expected that you will spend at least **fifteen hours per week** studying a 6 UoC course, from Week 1 until the final assessment, including both face-to-face classes and *independent, self-directed study*. In periods where you need to need to complete assignments or prepare for examinations, the workload may be greater. Over-commitment has been a common source of failure for many students. You should take the required workload into account when planning how to balance study with employment and other activities.

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is expected. UNSW regulations state that if students attend less than 80% of scheduled classes they may be refused final assessment.

General Conduct and Behaviour

Consideration and respect for the needs of your fellow students and teaching staff is an expectation. Conduct which unduly disrupts or interferes with a class is not acceptable and students may be asked to leave the class.

Work Health and Safety

UNSW policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others.

Special Consideration and Supplementary Examinations

You must submit all assignments and attend all examinations scheduled for your course. As of Term 1 2019, assessment of applications for [Special Consideration](#) will be managed centrally and the University has introduced a “fit to sit/submit” rule. You will no longer be required to take your original documentation to The Nucleus for verification. Instead, UNSW will conduct source checks on documentation for verification purposes. You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances beyond your control interfere with an assessment performance. If you need to submit an application for special consideration for an exam or assessment, you must submit the application **prior to the start** of the exam or before the assessment is submitted, except where illness or misadventure prevent you from doing so. If you sit an exam or submit an assignment, you are declaring yourself well enough to do so.

Continual Course Improvement

This course is under constant revision in order to improve the learning outcomes for all students. Please forward any feedback (positive or negative) on the course to the course convener or via the Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement Process. You can also provide feedback to ELSOC who will raise your concerns at student focus group meetings. As a result of previous feedback obtained for this course and in our efforts to provide a rich and meaningful learning experience, we have continued to evaluate and modify our delivery and assessment methods.

Administrative Matters

On issues and procedures regarding such matters as special needs, equity and diversity, occupational health and safety, enrolment, rights, and general expectations of students, please refer to the School and UNSW policies:

<http://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/electrical-engineering/policies-and-procedures>

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html>

Appendix A: Targeted Graduate Capabilities

Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications programs are designed to address the following targeted capabilities which were developed by the school in conjunction with the requirements of professional and industry bodies:

- The ability to apply knowledge of basic science and fundamental technologies;
- The skills to communicate effectively, not only with engineers but also with the wider community;
- The capability to undertake challenging analysis and design problems and find optimal solutions;
- Expertise in decomposing a problem into its constituent parts, and in defining the scope of each part;
- A working knowledge of how to locate required information and use information resources to their maximum advantage;
- Proficiency in developing and implementing project plans, investigating alternative solutions, and critically evaluating differing strategies;
- An understanding of the social, cultural and global responsibilities of the professional engineer;
- The ability to work effectively as an individual or in a team;
- An understanding of professional and ethical responsibilities;
- The ability to engage in lifelong independent and reflective learning.

Appendix B: UNSW Graduate Capabilities

The course delivery methods and course content address a number of core UNSW graduate attributes; these include:

- The skills involved in scholarly enquiry: This course develops an attitude towards keeping up to date with the latest methodology and technology.
- An in-depth engagement with the disciplinary knowledge in its inter-disciplinary context: This course will help appreciate the socio-economic context and technological and market advances in other disciplines that shape modern communication network systems.
- The capacity for analytical and critical thinking and for creative problem solving: This course develops the ability to analyse and criticise the design decisions that shape network systems, and to indulge in design problems outside the limits of principles and examples used in teaching.
- The ability to indulge in independent and reflective learning.
- The skills to appropriately locate, evaluate, and use relevant information.
- The capacity to contribute to and work within the international community.
- The skills required for collaborative and multi-disciplinary work.

Appendix C: Engineers Australia (EA) Professional Engineer Competency Standard

	Competency Standards	Learning Outcomes
PE1: Knowledge and Skill Base	PE1.1 Comprehensive, theory-based understanding of underpinning fundamentals	1, 3, 4
	PE1.2 Conceptual understanding of underpinning maths, analysis, statistics, computing	
	PE1.3 In-depth understanding of specialist bodies of knowledge	
	PE1.4 Discernment of knowledge development and research directions	2, 3, 4
	PE1.5 Knowledge of engineering design practice	1, 2, 3
	PE1.6 Understanding of scope, principles, norms, accountabilities of sustainable engineering practice	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
PE2: Engineering Application Ability	PE2.1 Application of established engineering methods to complex problem solving	1, 2, 3, 4
	PE2.2 Fluent application of engineering techniques, tools and resources	3, 4, 5
	PE2.3 Application of systematic engineering synthesis and design processes	3, 5
	PE2.4 Application of systematic approaches to the conduct and management of engineering projects	2, 3, 4, 5
PE3: Professional and Personal Attributes	PE3.1 Ethical conduct and professional accountability	1
	PE3.2 Effective oral and written communication (professional and lay domains)	5
	PE3.3 Creative, innovative and pro-active demeanour	5
	PE3.4 Professional use and management of information	2, 3
	PE3.5 Orderly management of self, and professional conduct	5
	PE3.6 Effective team membership and team leadership	2, 3, 4, 5